small and tiny rubber goods manufacturing units.

(c) Certain representations have been received requesting the Government to withdraw the Bill.

(d) For the reasons mentioned in reply to part (b) of the question, Government do not propose to withdraw the Bill.

Merger of Export Promotion Division with C.C.I. & E.

1133. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Export Promotion Division of his Ministry was merged with the C.C.I. & E. some years back;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even though promotion to Export Promotion Division officers was given in accordance with merged seniority but actual merger of this division with CCI & E has not taken place;

(c) whether there is resistance for such a merger from Export Promotion Division officers; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken by Government to ensure complete merger of this division with the CCI & E?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Following the recommendations of a High Powered Committee regarding future of Export Promotion Cadre in the Ministry of Commerce, it was decided that the grades of Joint Director and Deputy Director in the Export Promotion Cadre be encadred in the CTS (now ITS). Order to this effect, were issued in December, 1988. There has been no decision to physically transfer these posts to the Office of CCI&E.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tariff Reforms for boosting export

1134. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up tariff reforms to boost exports; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) In the Budget for 1992-93, tariff reforms have been made with the aim of bringing down the cost of essential imported inputs and to boost production for export. The peak levy of duties was brought down from 150 per cent to 110 percent (basic plus auxiliary). In order to encourage new investment in export-oriented industries, the duty rate on project imports and general machinery was reduced from 80 per cent to 60 per cent. In the case of capital goods, including project imports for electronics industry, the import duty was reduced from 60 per cent to 50 per cent. The import duty on other capital goods previously attracting duty above 80 per cent was reduced by 10 percentage points.

Friction on the Auction Platform of Tobacco Board at Ongole

1135. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that friction had arisen among the growers, traders and officials on the auction platform of Tobacco Board at Ongole on the 18th June, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) While bidding was going on at Additional Platform No. 23, Ongole on 18-6-92, a few farmers, aggrieved by the prices offered, manhandled the Auction Superintendent.

(b) The tobacco offered for sale on that day was from the areas producing saline tobaccos. The prices offered were comparatively less for such tobaccos. The farmers felt that their tobacco was down graded, which was not true. When the Auction Superintendent tried to explain the situation to the farmers, he was manhandled by some farmers. Consequently, the officers and staff of the Tobacco Board in the platforms in Andhra Pradesh boycotted the auctions from 19-5-92. The auctions were resumed on 23-5-92, after intervention by Chairman, Tobacco Board by holding discussions with the growers, staff members, Association respresentatives etc.

(c) In the meeting, farmers and their representatives assured that such things would not be repeated. Action has also been initiated as per the provisions of the Auction Regulations.

Quantity of F.C.V. Tobacco sold on Auction Platforms in Andhra Pradesh

1136. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of F.C.V. tobacco sold on auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the average price; and

(c) what is the platform-wise details thereof, alongwith the corresponding figures for the previous year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The total quantity of F.C.V. Tobacco marketed at on 10-7-92 is 127 M. kgs.

(b) The average price realised as on 10-7-92 is Rs. 27.95 per Kg.

(c) Auction platformwise details are given in the Statement attached. [*See* Appendix CLXIV, 395, Annexure No. 24].

Export order of F.C.V. Tobacco

1137. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMECRE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export order of tobacco this year;

(b) what is the demand for domestic consumption;

(c) what is the total quanity of F.C.V Tobacco exported so far;

(d) what is the total quantity of F.C.V. tobacco contracted for export; and

(e) what are the prices of export quantity of F.C.V. tobacco for different countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) FCV Tobacco export are projected at 55,000 tons in packed weight for the year 1992-93.

(b) Demand for domestic consumption is projected at 81 M.Kgs. in green weight.

(c) 9785 tons till end June, 1992 (packed weight).

(d) As per information available with the Tobacco Board, as on 15-7-92, total quantity contracted for export [including (c) above] is in the region of 25,000 tons.